

evaded our overwhelmed U.S. Border Patrol agents.

Mr. Speaker, I rise for all middle Tennesseans to say: Mr. President, please do your job and secure our border.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 60

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS: Mr. Hoyer, Ms. Kaptur, Mr. Bishop of Georgia, Ms. Lee of California, Ms. McCollum, Mr. Ruppersberger, Ms. Wasserman Schultz, Mr. Cuellar, Ms. Pingree, Mr. Quigley, Mr. Kilmer, Mr. Cartwright, Ms. Meng, Mr. Pocan, Mr. Aguilar, Ms. Lois Frankel of Florida, Mrs. Watson Coleman, Mrs. Torres of California, Mr. Case, Mr. Espallat, Mr. Harder of California, Ms. Wexton, Mr. Trone, Ms. Underwood, Mrs. Lee of Nevada, Mr. Morelle.

Mr. AGUILAR (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

STRATEGIC PRODUCTION RESPONSE ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the legislation and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 21.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 5 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 21.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole

House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 21) to provide for the development of a plan to increase oil and gas production under oil and gas leases of Federal lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Defense in conjunction with a drawdown of petroleum reserves from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, with Mr. ROUZER in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the majority leader and the minority leader, or their respective designees.

The gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS).

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 21, the Strategic Production Response Act.

Two weeks ago, this body sent a strong message that we must ensure our Nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserve will not advance the energy interests of China over the energy security interests of Americans.

This bill today will help ensure this vital American energy asset and American security interests will not be drained away for nonemergency, political purposes. This bill is about restoring America's energy security. It provides a path towards making energy more affordable for Americans who are looking to us to help ease the pain at the pump.

H.R. 21 does this by preserving the Strategic Petroleum Reserve for its vital and central purpose: to provide the oil supplies Americans need during true emergencies—emergencies like supply disruptions that threaten the Nation's economy, or the loss of oil production due to hurricanes and other disasters.

Put simply, under this bill, if an administration chooses to use the reserve for nonemergency political purposes, it will first have to develop a plan that an equal amount would be reinstated from American energy resources.

The SPR should be used as a tool of last resort. This is sensible energy policy. It is also urgent policy. At present, the SPR's ability to protect Americans has been put at risk. More than 250 million barrels of oil, approximately 40 percent of the reserve, has been drawn down in less than 2 years. This is more than all of the former Presidents in history combined. It is all to cover up historically high gas prices in an election year. This is irresponsible.

The Biden administration has undermined our Nation's ability to respond

to true energy emergencies by mismanaging our Nation's strategic energy stockpile. At the same time, the administration has taken every action to suppress America's mighty energy production abilities. Unbelievably, the Biden administration has turned to Venezuela and Saudi Arabia to pump more oil instead of working to lift their regulatory restraints on American energy producers.

America's oil production and refining capacity remains 1 million barrels below peak levels during the prior administration. We have the world's most abundant resources and the capacity to produce millions more barrels per day.

America should never be at the mercy of OPEC or Russia. Energy security is economic security and it is national security. It is all connected. It is foundational to everything. We should be unleashing American energy on all fronts.

Don't forget, Mr. Chair, the United States has some of the highest environmental and labor standards in the world. We have been the leader in bringing down carbon emissions. We did this by embracing innovation and our abundant natural resources, not by shutting down entire industries.

Right now, America is suffering through the worst energy crisis in decades, and gas prices are still surging upwards. Now, President Biden's and the Democrats' radical rush-to-green agenda has made life unaffordable for people across the country. It has driven up inflation, it has strained household budgets, and it has weakened our electric grid.

Gas prices have risen to the highest levels in history. Some have been forced to pay more than \$6 a gallon. Gas prices are still 40 percent higher today, and diesel prices are up almost \$2 a gallon more than when President Biden took office.

It is time to flip the switch. It is time to end the politically motivated abuse of the SPR and focus on American energy and American security. Let's send a strong signal this Congress that we stand for energy security, preserving the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, restoring America's energy dominance, and providing for the prosperity of all Americans.

Mr. Chair, I urge support of H.R. 21, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 21. Once again, House Republicans are showing their true colors—bringing a bill to the floor that helps their Big Oil friends and hurts hardworking Americans.

This is a reckless and extreme bill. It will hamstring the single most important tool the Biden administration has used to fight Putin's price hike on gasoline. The chairwoman mentioned affordability, but by releasing oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, the Biden administration helped bring down gas prices by over \$1.50 per gallon. Republicans call that politicizing